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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 000284

SIPDIS

FOR NEA/ELA AND DRL/NESCA  
NSC FOR PASCUAL AND KUCHTA-HELBLING

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/17/2029

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SUBJECT: COURT FINES INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST FOR DEFAMING CONTROVERSIAL MP REF: A. CAIRO 180 B. CAIRO 70 C. 08 CAIRO 2405 D. 08 CAIRO 2280 E. 08  
1.(C) Summary and comment: On February 10, a court fined independent newspaper editor Yasser Barakat LE 40,000 (7,000 USD) for allegedly defami

2.(C) On February 10, Cairo Criminal Court fined Yasser Barakat, editor of the virtually unknown weekly newspaper "Al-Mogez" ("The Summary"), I

3.(C) The Arab Network for Human Rights Information issued a statement criticizing the court's fine as "an excessively harsh judgment that migh

4.(C) Engi Haddad of the Arab-African Human Rights Organization also described the fine as excessive and described the court verdict as part of

5.(C) Comment: We do not believe the LE 40,000 fine is heavy enough to jeopardize the newspaper's financial viability. The fine is lower than n